

REMARKS

Claims 23-97 and 104-107 are pending in the application.

Claims 23-97 and 104-107 have been rejected.

Claims 23, 37, 42, 44, 45, 60, 65, 67, 68, 83, 88, 90, 91, and 96-97 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification, at least in ¶¶ [0041]-[0047].

Claims 108 has been added.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 23-29, 36-51, 59-74, 82-97 and 104-106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent 6,657,990 issued to Dilip et al. ("Dilip"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 23, as amended is representative of amended independent Claims 45 and 68, and now recites:

23. An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a communication server, executed by said processor, which is configured to communicate with a communication channel by virtue of being configured to receive an incoming communication from the communication channel via a channel driver communicatively coupled to the communication channel, wherein
the channel driver is configured to communicate with the communication channel by virtue of being configured according to a media type of the communication channel,
and
the media type of the communication channel is one of a plurality of media types, and
cause an outgoing communication to be sent to the communication channel via the channel driver, wherein
the communication server is further configured to communicate independently of the media type of the communication channel by virtue of being configured to communicate with the communications channel via the channel driver, and
the communication server and the channel driver are configured to communicate with one another by virtue of a communication application program interface.

The Office Action relies on Dilip to disclose all the limitations of Claim 23. *See* Office Action, pp. 2-3. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest all the limitations of amended Claim 23.

For example, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest that a communication server could be configured to communicate independently of a media type of a communication channel by virtue of being configured to communicate with the

communications channel via a channel driver. Furthermore, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest that such a communication server and such a channel driver could be configured to communicate with one another by virtue of a communication application program interface.

Dilip discloses a transaction processing environment. *See* Dilip, 5:10-14. Dilip's environment includes a control server that is shown to communicate with servers and a transaction processing system. *Id.*, 7:46-51. The Office Action attempts to equate Dilip's control server communicating with the transaction processing system and the servers, with the claimed communication server. *See* Office Action, p. 3. However, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest that the server disclosed therein can communicate independently of a media type of a communication channel. The cited sections of Dilip disclose that a control server includes a transaction management interface, which manages interactions and the exchange of information to the various transaction managers (which handle only one type of transaction). *Id.*, 9:8-16. In addition, the transaction manager interface also contacts the transaction processing system manager to request an appropriate agent to handle a specific type of transaction. *Id.*, 9:20-40. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Dilip's control server is not configured to communicate independently of the media type of a communication channel. On the contrary, the managing and requesting operations performed by Dilip's transaction management interface make clear that the transaction management interface itself is aware of the media type of a received communication. By being aware of the media type of information received, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest a control server that is configured to communicate in a media-independent manner. Therefore,

Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest that a communication server that is configured to communicate independently of a media type of a communication channel by virtue of being configured to communicate with a communications channel via a channel driver.

Moreover, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest that the communication server and the channel driver are configured to communicate with one another by virtue of a communication application program interface. In fact, nothing in Dilip shows, teaches, or even suggests that any of its servers can be configured to communicate using any communication application program interface. Dilip simply provides that communication from a transaction management interface to a server responsible for a particular transaction type is possible. *See* Dilip, 9:11-14. However, no indication is given as to how this communication might be performed between the control server and the servers, and nothing in Dilip discloses that the communicating occurs in any sort of uniform manner. By contrast, the claimed invention allows for communication between a communication server and a channel driver by virtue of a communication application program interface. This uniformity in communication between a communication server and a channel driver allows for great flexibility when integrating products. *See* Application, ¶ [0045]. For example, a channel driver for a specific media type could be substituted with another channel driver of a different media type without a need to replace or reconfigure a communication server. *Id.*, ¶¶[0045]-[0047]. Dilip's control server would not allow for this type of integration because each transaction manager within the control server is specific to a type of transaction. *See* Dilip, 9:11-14. Hence, the cited sections of Dilip fail to show, teach, or even suggest that the communication

server and the channel driver are configured to communicate with one another by virtue of a communication application program interface.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest the limitations of independent Claims 23, 45, and 68, and all claims depending therefrom.

With regards to independent Claims 37, 42, 44, 60, 65, 67, 83, 88, 90, 91, 96, and 97, Applicants respectfully submit that that independent Claim 37, 42, 44, 60, 65, 67, 83, 88, 90, 91, 96, and 97, as amended, have limitations that are similar to those of amended Claim 23. Hence, at least for the reasons given for the allowability of Claim 23, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 37, 42, 44, 60, 65, 67, 83, 88, 90, 91, 96, and 97.

With regards to new Claim 108, Applicants respectfully submit that Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest anything even remotely comparable to a channel driver, nor that such a channel driver might somehow be configured to communicate with any one of the plurality of media types. The cited sections of Dilip disclose a transaction manager and a server for handling each particular type of transaction. *See* Dilip, 9:11-14. For example, Dilip discloses e-mail, fax, and video transaction manager and server pairs for handling email, fax, and video transactions. *Id.*, Figure 3 (elements 114, 116, 118, 90, 92, and 94). As such, each transaction manager and server pair is specific to a particular type of transaction and would be unable to communicate with any other. Hence, Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest the claimed channel driver is configured to communicate with any one of the plurality of media types.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Dilip fails to show, teach, or even suggest the limitations of Claim 108.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 30-35, 52-58 and 75-81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,332,154 issued to Beck et al. ("Beck"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 107 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dilip in view of U.S. Patent 6,778,661 issued to Yumoto et al. ("Yumoto"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For at least the reason that Claims 30-35, 52-58, 78-81 and 107 are dependent upon allowable base Claims 23, 45, 68, and 42, respectively, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5094.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,



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